

# THE MNN

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December 2009



Rebecca Landsberry

### Letter from the Editor:

Happy Holidays readers!

Well here we are again at the year's end with 2010 just around the corner. I can't help but ask myself what will this decade be known for. Certainly the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Hurricane Katrina and the election of the first minority American President will top the list.

For Indian Country, the strides we have made over the last 10 years have revitalized our languages, secured multiple forms of economic development across the globe and have strengthened our sovereignty by doing so.

With the recent settlement of the *Cobell* case, many tribal members feel that (a least somewhat) justice has been served. However, whether the federal government can put a dollar amount on all that is owed to the Native American people is (in my opinion, at least) debatable.

For the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the opening of the \$195 million River Spirit Casino in March 2009 was more than a momentous occasion for the tribe. The same may also be said for the recent ground breaking on the new campus for the College of the Muscogee Nation this past month. By investing in the education of our people, the Nation is sure to reap the benefits for decades to come.

If you have news, events or story ideas, please contact the Communications Department by phone at (918) 732-7720 or e-mail me at [RLandsberry@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:RLandsberry@muscogeenation-nsn.gov)

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## MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION FESTIVAL RODEO NAMED 2009 IPRA'S BEST NEW RODEO

Media Release  
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Rodeo, in Okmulgee, Okla. has been voted "2009 International Pro Rodeo Association Best New Rodeo of the Year" by the IPRA, which consists of more than 2,500 members. This year, the IPRA sanctioned 44 new rodeos throughout the United States and Canada. Twenty-three of the new rodeos were selected based on the amount of prize money and contestant participation to vie for the title of best new rodeo of 2009.

Dale Yerigan, IPRA General Manager, stated, "On behalf of the International Pro Rodeo Association (IPRA) I would like to congratulate the Muscogee Nation Festival Rodeo for being named the Best New IPRA Rodeo for 2009. The IPRA sanctions approximately 300 rodeos annually across the USA and Canada and it is a great accomplishment to be selected as the best."

"The IPRA is proud of all of its rodeo committees but to win this prestigious award that is voted on by thousands of members, sets this great event apart," Yerigan stated.

Cherokee Hicks, Director of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism & Recreation, stated, "To get an esteemed award as this is an ecstatic surprise! Knowing that these votes came from the contestants is very gratifying. It expresses their appreciation for rodeo and for a team of people that work to show them



MNN/Starla Bush

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Rodeo was recently named the 2009 International Pro Rodeo Association's 'Best New Rodeo of the Year' by the IPRA.

they are valued and want them to have a good time."

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Rodeo occurs each June at the Bob Arrington Rodeo Arena, which is a part of the Claude Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee. The rodeo is one of the biggest of the more than 35 events at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Annual Festival.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Festival Rodeo will be honored Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010

at the Gold Buckle Gala which will be held at the Biltmore Hotel in Oklahoma City at 5:30 p.m. A bronze sculpture will also be awarded in January during the International Finals Rodeo (IFR40). For more information about IFR40, please visit [www.ifrodeo.com](http://www.ifrodeo.com).

For more information regarding the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Tourism & Recreation, call (918) 732-7992.

## 2010 U.S. Census participation emphasized by JOM

Angel Ellis  
MNN Senior Writer

OKMULGEE — In a concentrated effort to raise awareness of the importance of Census 2010 participation, the JOM In-Service meeting hosted regional representatives of the U.S. Census 2010. The meeting was held at the Green Country Vo-tech campus and was attended by JOM sponsors of schools all over the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, who heard an important message from Census Bureau Regional officials such as Dennis Johnson, Edgar Midkiff and Susan Arkeketa.

The results of a Census affect how more than \$400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to state, local and tribal governments like the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The topics discussed by the speakers reiterated the impact participation in the Census has for tribes. The

number of participants directly determines what entities receive funding.

Susan Arkeketa, United States Census Partnership Specialist, spoke about the time line for the Census.

"The Census results not only determine who receives funding and how much, but the data obtained counts for the next ten years," explains Arkeketa.

"This Census campaign turn out - good or bad- will be the guideline used to calculate funding for the next decade."

A poor Census count could leave the Muscogee (Creek) Nation facing inadequate funding. However, this year's campaign "Indian Country Counts," is raising awareness of the important role the Native population plays in securing funding.

SEE CENSUS - PAGE 2



## National Council Candidate Profile Retraction

Rebecca Landsberry  
MNN Editor

OKMULGEE — The *Muscogee Nation News* regretfully acknowledges misprinted candidate profile information released in the December 2009 issue.

E. June Mustari's candidate profile should have included tribal experience that was mistakenly placed under Jerry Wilson's information.

We want to sincerely apologize to our readers for this mistake and any misunderstandings it may have caused. The corrected information may be found on page 3.

If there are questions or additional concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Communications Department for more information at (918) 732-7720.

SEE PROFILES - PAGE 3





## Muscogee Nation News STAFF

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Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

**The Muscogee Nation News** is mailed First Class from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

**TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wlmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.**

## Legal Notices

DISTRICT COURT  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

2009 DEC -2 P 1:5

In re the Paternity of M. A. M.: )  
LORI ANN LONG, )  
Petitioner, ) Case No. CV-2009-200  
and ) Judge: Patrick E. Moore  
RICARDO MARTINEZ RIVERA, )  
Respondent. )

**SERVICE OF SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Ricardo Martinez Rivera

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for paternity in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. CV 2009-200, styled In re the Paternity of M.A.M: Lori Ann Long, Petitioner vs. Ricardo Martinez Rivera, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to an *Order Establishing Paternity* naming you as the natural father of a minor child and also asking for legal custody of the minor child and for child support to be calculated according to Tribal Code and State Law.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner and appear at the hearing scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010 at 10:00 A.m. at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Mound Building, Hwy 75 and 56 Loop, Okmulgee, OK or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2009.

Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District  
By: Sobie King  
(Deputy)

(SEAL)

DISTRICT COURT  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

2009 DEC -4 P 2: 50

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP )  
OF I.M.M. ) Case No. GD-2009-12  
Minor child. ) Judge Patrick Moore

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN OF MINOR CHILD CHILDREN**

TO: JAMIE MARSHALL

On the 4 day of Dec, 2009, a Petition was filed in this Court for the Appointment of Guardian of the minor child, I.M.M., a minor child born out of wedlock on February 24, 2004, to Jamie Marshall, so that a guardian can be appointed for said minor child. Said Petition is set for hearing on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010 at the hour of 10:00 o'clock AM before the Honorable Judge Patrick E. Moore in District Court in and for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, located at Highway 75 and Loop 56, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

This action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to guardianship over the minor child based on abandonment. You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioner and appear at the above scheduled hearing or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

DISTRICT COURT  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

2009 DEC -2 P 2

IN RE THE PATERNITY OF )  
M.L.N.L. and S.R.G )  
ROXANNE CHRISTINE GIBBS, )  
Petitioner, ) Case No. CV-2009-149  
VORISE JOSEPH LIGHTELL, )  
Respondent. ) Before Patrick E. Moore  
Judge of the District Court

**SERVICE OF SUMMONS  
BY PUBLICATION NOTICE**

Muscogee (Creek) Nation To: Vorise Joseph Lightell

TAKE NOTICE that you have been sued for divorce in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District, Case No. CV-2009-149, styled In re the Paternity M.L.N.L. and S.R.G., Roxanne Christine Gibbs, Petitioner and Vorise Joseph Lightell, Respondent. The action alleges that the petitioner is entitled to a *Paternity Determination and Agreed Order for Custody, Child Support and Visitation*.

You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the petitioner on or before the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010, or appear at the hearing on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010 at 10:00 o'clock A.m. Failure to respond and/or attend will result in the allegations contained in the *Petition* being taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

Given under my hand and seal this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2009.

Nancy Jukich, Court Clerk  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court, Okmulgee District

DISTRICT COURT  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION  
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

2009 DEC -4 P 8

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP )  
OF I.M.M. ) Case No. GD-2009-12  
Minor child. ) Judge Patrick Moore

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF  
GUARDIAN OF MINOR CHILD CHILDREN**

TO: PAUL FAXON

On the 4 day of Dec, 2009, a Petition was filed in this Court for the Appointment of Guardian of the minor child, I.M.M., a minor child born out of wedlock on February 24, 2004, to Paul Faxon, so that a guardian can be appointed for said minor child. Said Petition is set for hearing on the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2010 at the hour of 10:00 o'clock AM before the Honorable Judge Patrick E. Moore in District Court in and for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, located at Highway 75 and Loop 56, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447.

This action alleges that the Petitioner is entitled to guardianship over the minor child based on abandonment. You are notified that you must answer the *Petition* filed by the Petitioner and appear at the above scheduled hearing or the allegations contained in the *Petition* will be taken as true and judgment will be entered against you and in favor of Petitioner as prayed for in her *Petition*.

## Census

Continued from Page 1

Census data help guide local planning decisions, including where to provide additional social services, establish senior centers, and even help determine where to build roads, hospitals and schools.

Edgar Midkiff, Senior Partnership Specialist, American Indian/Alaska Native Regional Team Leader said, "It's never been so easy - ten questions - it takes only ten minutes, and it is so important."

By answering ten simple questions, funding for vital community services important to many older per-

sons and retirees may be obtained.

Another aspect that was emphasized to the JOM volunteers, so that they may help spread the word in their communities is that the information shared in the Census is completely safe. By law the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' information with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. Employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect confidentiality of the data. Punishments to breaking policies can be severe.

The Census Bureau is still looking for employees as well. Those who are interested in part-time to full-time work can expect a fair wage and mileage as reimbursement for their work at the bureau and even a possibility of furthering their employment opportunity.

While it is against policy for any of the Bureau representatives to council respondents as to how to fill out their Census forms, it is a fact that households, which are mixed ethnicity, can enter Native American if one of the adults of the household is Native

American. Census Head of Household status is not the same as income taxes; the title simply refers to the person who is filling out the form. Another important factor for the Head of Household filling out the form to remember that they must list their preferred tribal affiliation by listing the entire name of the tribe.

For example, respondents should write out "Muscogee (Creek) Nation" instead of just "Creek."

Wrapping up the informative session, Edgar Midkiff said, "I am Oglala Sioux, and I count!"



## Dianna Lynn Billie

**Seat: A**
**Name:** Dianna Lynn Billie

**Clan:** Deer

**Tribal Town:** Concharty

**Church:** Concharty United Methodist Church

**Family:** Two children and seven grandchildren.


**Experience:** Resident of the Glenpool Community for the past seven years, currently serve on the board of the Glenpool Creek Indian Community as the Secretary. I am also on the finance committee and trustee committee for Concharty United Methodist Church. I have about 19 years of experience in different aspects of the gaming industry both nationally and internationally.

"I believe strongly in educating Creek citizens of all ages. I would like to see incentive programs implemented to encourage students to complete High School and increased incentives for graduates of higher learning. I believe in taking care of our elder citizens with respect and dignity. I believe that education, accountability on all levels of tribal government and a true spirit of service to the people is the key to moving the Muscogee Nation forward," Billie stated.

If elected, it would be an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of the Tulsa District.

## Forbes Perkins

**Seat: A**
**Name:** Forbes Perkins

**Clan:** Sweet Potato

**Tribal Town:** New Tulsa

**Church:** Indian Fellowship Baptist


**Family:** Born in Bellflower, Calif., to Paula (Pinkie) and Lewis Perkins. My maternal grandmother was Nellie McCosar from Holdenville, Okla.

**Education:** Graduated from Haskell Indian Nations University in May 1995 with an AA degree in Liberal Arts.

Currently attending College of the Muscogee Nation, majoring in Native American studies, and Tulsa Community College, majoring in Graphic Design/marketing. "I feel that a person can never have too much education."

**Experience:** Currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Tulsa Creek Indian Community for four years, serving as the Sgt.-at-Arms, Vice-Chairman and now as Chairman. Employed as an AutoCAD drafter with Horizon Engineering, which is a Native-owned civil engineering firm that specializes in tribal needs including designing and/or improving tribal roads, casinos, hospitals and reservation schools.

"While serving on the Tulsa Board of Directors, I have seen what problems the tribe has to deal with. I deal with the tribe and I talk to current Council members regularly, seeing and hearing what goes on with the tribe and the government. I would not be a stranger to the council if elected, as many of the Council know me already. I would be the second generation of my family to serve on the Council. I want to help our people as much as possible. With my education background and my time and experience I would get serving on the National Council, I feel I can be a positive influence in the Native community," Perkins stated.

## E. June Mustari

**Seat: A**
**Name:** Elanor June Mustari

**Clan:** Eco

**Tribal Town:** Arbeka

**Church:** Weogufkee Indian Baptist


**Family:** Spouse Eugene J. Mustari, Parents are Bailey and Mattie (Simpson) Bullett, Grandparents are Shelby and Lucy (Fields) Simpson and Solomon and Millie (West) Bullett.

**Education:** Private schools and two years at boarding school, graduate of Haskell Indian Nations University and attended business school for Accounting and Computer Programming

**Experience:** Fluent in Myskoke language, active military (U. S. Air Force) – Honorable Discharge, Tulsa County Voter Registrar and Docent (Tour Guide) Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Tulsa's Stormwater Drainage Advisory Board, League of Women Voters of Tulsa and Oklahoma; Treasurer at both levels.

\*Corrected additional experience: Tribal Experience includes Enterprise Board of Directors Chairman and Treasurer Tulsa Creek Indian Community, four years on Gaming Operations Authority Board, 1-1/2 years as Chairman, three years as Chairman of TCIC Business Board, 2008 Constitution Convention Commissioner

"By observation, I can see our government is having problems but we also have many good things happening. I care very deeply for our tribe. I do know a lot about the laws of our Nation and I will learn much more, fairly swiftly. Among other issues, I would like to see accountability and responsibility for whatever position one holds. Fiscal responsibility is at the top of my list. I want to see that tribal services are improved, including attitude, along with what we can provide. Nothing is done alone, and I am very willing and able to work with anyone, including other branches of our government, to achieve progress. I will not bill my message as 'for the good of the Nation' although that is what I will truly aim for. I cannot make promises I may not be able to deliver but I will try my very best for our citizens."

## Carolyn Burgess-Billy

**Seat: A**
**Name:** Carolyn Burgess-Billy

**Clan:** Wotko (Raccoon)

**Church:** Celebration Church

**Family:** Parents were Woodrow Burgess and Rhoda Hicks Burgess; Grandparents were James and Elsie West Burgess and Robert and Lena Heneka Hicks; Husband, David Leslie Billy.



**Education:** Associates in Business Management at St. Gregory's University in Tulsa, Okla. Now working on Bachelor's in Administrative Leadership at the University of Oklahoma in Tulsa, Okla.

**Experience:** My experience extends to listening and helping people resolve issues on a daily basis. I have worked for State Farm Insurance for five years in the Regional Office as an Underwriting Service Assistant and during the past year have played a key role in bringing awareness, education and resources to the employees about the Native American culture and traditions.

"In my heart, I see the need for change. The kind of change that will put our Creek citizens on the same level as other tribes," Billy stated.

### • Challenge Bowl training set for Feb. 4, 2010

OKMULGEE — The Challenge bowl training will be held Feb. 4, 2010.

The high school competition will be held on Feb. 11, 2010, middle school competition on Feb. 18, 2010, and the elementary competition Feb. 25, 2010.

All training and competitions will be held at Burbank Schools, which is located at 209 S. Lakewood Dr., in Tulsa, Okla.

The registration deadline is Jan. 8, 2010. For more information contact Joe Martel, by e-mail at [jmartel@muscogeenation-nsn.gov](mailto:jmartel@muscogeenation-nsn.gov), by phone at (918) 732-7841 or fax at (918) 732-7844.

### • Fife Collection to be featured in BAHSM

BROKEN ARROW — A special exhibit, "The Fife Collection: A New Generation," that includes works of twenty-one artists from a single family will be on exhibit at the Broken Arrow Historical Society Museum beginning Saturday, November 21. A "Meet the Artists" reception will be held on Sunday, November 29 from 1 to 5 pm at the museum, 400 S Main in Broken Arrow.

This exhibit will run Nov. 21, 2009 through Jan. 9, 2010 at the Broken Arrow Historical Society Museum. Hours are Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 2p.m. Special opening will be held Sunday, Nov. 29, from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., and will feature a meet and greet with the artists.

For more information, contact Betty Gerber, Executive Director of the Broken Arrow Historical Society, located at 400 S. Main, in Broken Arrow by phone at (918) 258-2616



## Community Calendar

### • Notice from MCN Food Distribution Center

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Creek Nation Food Distribution Center is hosting tailgating sites throughout each month. At these sites the staff will take applications, recertify clients, and distribute commodities. This allows people to be on the program without having to drive to the distribution center in Okmulgee.

Benefits may be available to citizens living within the Creek Nation boundaries, with the exception of residents of Broken Arrow, Muskogee, Sands Springs, and Tulsa.

Contact the Food Distributions Program to request an application be mailed, come by the office, or download an application on the web site at [www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov](http://www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov). For more information contact (918) 756-3002.

### • Newtown UMC Holiday Schedule

OKMULGEE — Please join the Newtown United Methodist Church as they celebrate the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The service will begin at 7 p.m. Wed., Dec. 23, and will be followed by a Christmas program.

Newtown UMC is expecting a visit from Santa Claus and his reindeer with gifts for everyone. The evening program will include a Christmas play, holiday songs and refreshments.

For more information, please contact Rev. David Dunson at (918) 758-7002. Newtown United Methodist Church is located on the northwest side of Okmulgee on W. Eufaula St.

### • MFSI Greenhouse Workshops

OKMULGEE — The MFSI is hosting a details of greenhouse growing workshop at the OSU Extension Service located at the Okmulgee County Fairgrounds. The Instructional classes will take place from 10:30 a.m., to 4 p.m.

Mike Schenell, OSU extension specialist at OSU Stillwaters Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture will be instructing the workshop.

For more information contact the MFSI office at (918) 756-5915.

## Lucy Marshall-Spaulding

**Seat:** A

**Name:** Lucy Marshall-Spaulding

**Clan:** Sweet Potato

**Tribal Town:** Koweta

**Church:** Wekiwa Indian Baptist

**Family:** Husband Jon, three sons, Shawn Marshall, Jeremy Coon, Cory Spaulding and one daughter Samaria Spaulding. Six grandchildren. Daughter of late Captain and late Samaria Marshall. Maternal grandparents are Joe Buck Grayson and Lucy Lovett; Paternal grandparents are Rufus Marshall and Lizzie Gooden.

**Education:** Received an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Business from Haskell Jr. College

**Experience:** I am presently serving as Treasurer for the Tulsa Creek Indian Community Board of Directors since February 2008. I am employed with the Corps of Engineers for 36 years and I have worked for three months in Vicksburg, Miss., and Biloxi, Miss., on Hurricane Katrina.

"I believe that I can represent the Muscogee people with pride and integrity. If elected Council Person, I would serve full-time, not part-time, to expand on existing services i.e., Higher Education, Senior Citizens, Veterans; and to provide an economic development to the Nation that would increase jobs for tribal members; increase our land base, which means putting land into trust for future generations. I would work diligently with the tribe and with the other Council members and by working together we can accomplish good things for the Nation," Spaulding stated.



## Jerry Wilson

**Seat:** A

**Name:** Jerry Wilson

**Clan:** Deer

**Tribal Town:** Tulsa Little River

**Church:** Tulsa Hills Baptist Church

**Family:** Son of the late Alfred and Ruth Wilson, widower, one son, Coy Wilson and grandson, Trez Wilson.

**Education:** B.S. Degree in Business and Master's Degree in Ed. Admin.

**Experience:** Wilson worked for the tribe in the early 70s, was the first editor of the *Muscogee Nation News*, worked in all three of the major divisions, served five terms on the National Council and served as the Executive Director. Wilson has owned and operated several small businesses, and received an award from the Small Business Administration as the Minority Entrepreneur of the Year. In addition, he worked for OSU for 23 years and retired last summer; and since that time has started a new business training allied health professionals in the field of pedorthics.

"I decided to run for office to use my experience for the benefit of tribal government. If elected, I would like to focus on improved health care, support for the tribal college, and new strategies for economic development," says Wilson.



## Carol McHenry-Williams

**Seat:** A

**Name:** Carol McHenry-Williams

**Clan:** Beaver

**Tribal Town:** Turtle

**Church:** Lexington Road Family Worship Center

**Family:** Mother Gladys Bland McHenry and Father Lewis Tuskonah McHenry, Maternal grandparents Jeanetta Haikey Bland and Louis D., great grandfather Ben B. Haikey, paternal grandparents Jess J. McHenry and Louise Smith of Broken Arrow. Married to Ron Williams for 47 years with four children Rhanna Simmons of Tulsa Okla., Karrie Phillips of Sapulpa Okla., Candy Lillig of Broken Arrow Okla., and Shawn Williams of Grand Rapids, Mich.. We are blessed with 16 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren who richly bless our lives.

**Education:** Associate Degree in Computer Programming from Tulsa Junior College while working full time with four children involved in sports, cheer leading, marching band and FFA.

**Experience:** I retired in 1997 after working 20 years for The Williams Companies a Fortune 500 Company and have 10 years experience as a Computer Software System Analyst. I currently work for AT&T as a customer service representative. I have been a member of Tulsa Creek Indian Community since 1991 and currently serve on the Tulsa Indian Affairs Commission and the Bylaws Committee.

Over the years my family has benefited from the many programs offered by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, now I would like to give something back to my people. I have developed excellent research and analytical skills with a strong math background. Some of my concerns are in the areas of more accessible health services, senior housing in the Tulsa District, and higher funding for education assistance. "We need more synergy of resources, which can reduce the redundancy of information across departments and service agencies, and serve our tribal members more efficiently. I would like to serve you on the National Council by making wise and informed decisions. My priority will be to represent the Tulsa district tribal citizens but I want to be accountable and fair to all Muscogee (Creek) citizens, not only those who live within the Tribal boundaries but also those who reside outside the Tribal boundaries. Please allow me to represent you by voting for me in the election Saturday, Dec. 26, 2009," Williams said.



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# Program Spotlight: Communications

• Department now serving citizens' design, printing and multimedia needs

Josh Slane

MNN Contributor

OKMULGEE — According to Dictionary.com, the definition of the word 'Communication' is as follows, "Communication: Verb; A collection of routes for sending messages."

Falling under the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's Executive Branch, the Communications Department does just that - serving as a collection of routes for sending messages.

So what kind of routes for sending messages through the Communications Department are available to tribal citizens? The answer might surprise you, dear reader.

First, and most obviously, is the bi-monthly newspaper, the *Muscogee Nation News*, which is a full-color publication with a circulation of 7,500 and an estimated readership of over 18,000 based on the standard 2.5 rate.

The MNN includes information from various departments within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as well as features, lifestyles, obituaries, letters to the editor, legislative and legal notices.

Editor of the *Muscogee Nation News*, Rebecca Landsberry, said working for the MNN comes with its challenges and responsibilities but is an extremely rewarding experience.

"The Editorial Division is always striving to make improvements which will make the publication more timely and informative for all citizens. It is thrilling to be part of such an exceptionally progressive department and to serve as the mouthpiece for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Landsberry stated.

She went on to say that the MNN serves a vital function for the citizens of the Nation and encourages them to familiarize themselves with the different divisions of tribal media.

"People can get their news from a variety of sources now with the T.V. show or by listening to the local radio program but we feel a great responsibility to our readers, many of whom live outside the jurisdictional boundaries, because the *Muscogee Nation News* may be one of only a few ways they feel connected to their government, culture and tribe."



MNN/Ruth Bible

The Communications Department is located on the main complex of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, just south of the Lighthorse Administration Building.

Also on the printed side of things, the Graphic Design Division is able to design and print everything from banners to business cards and magnets to canvas. Working along side this division is Screen Printing, which designs and prints on T-shirts and more at competitive prices.

The Web Design division is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Muscogee Nation Web site, ensuring information on the site is timely and also for the digital archives of various media such as the *Muscogee Nation News*, *Native News Today* and *Creek Beat*.

Citizens may also access various multi-media outlets including the weekly radio program, *Creek Beat* which airs each Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m., on KOKL AM 1240 hosted by Gerald Wofford and Rebecca Landsberry.

The radio program features news, events and information from MCN departments and communities from everything from wild onion dinners to voting information. Citizens may submit their community events by con-

all-news television show, is broadcast throughout the state and rounds out the Multimedia Division.

The show is hosted by Jason Salsman and Gerald Wofford and features tribal news, events and information across Indian Country. Salsman stated that *Native News Today* is something the Muscogee (Creek) Nation can be proud of in addition to all the tribes featured on the program.

"We're obviously proud of the fact that for over three years now, we have been the only all-Native news format on network television. It's a testament to the vision that the tribe has, and also a belief in the people, that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is out front on this," he stated.

After noticing the price tags at professional photography studios for senior pictures, the Photography Division was created to serve Muscogee (Creek) high school seniors, allowing students to get their packages at a highly-discounted rate.

The program was such a success that last year the division expanded to include family portraits as well. Mallory

Recently, two long-time employees, Lucas Taylor and Carla Brown, have left the department to pursue other interests, leading to the hiring of new manager and long-time employee, Gerald Wofford.

Wofford said his vision for the Communications Department is one with plenty of room to grow.

"It has always been an honor to work for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I have served this tribe for many years and now to have an opportunity to represent the tribe in this capacity means a lot, both professionally and personally. There are a lot of challenges ahead and goals still to achieve, but I feel with the staff that makes up the Communications Department, we are more than able to accomplish these, and many more," he stated.

In the future, there are many endeavors the Communications Department is tackling, including official Muscogee (Creek) Nation social media sites which will be aimed at increasing the number of routes to get the various messages out to the citizens of the great Muscogee Nation.

**"...There are a lot of challenges ahead and goals still to achieve, but I feel with the staff that makes up the Communications Department, we are more than able to accomplish these, and many more."**

**-Gerald Wofford, Communications Manager**

tacting Gerald Wofford at (918) 732-7635.

*Native News Today*, Oklahoma's only Native American,

Bible serves as Studio Photographer and may be reached to set up appointments at (918) 732-7639 or by e-mail at MBible@muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

For more information on the divisions or programs, please contact the Communications Department at 9918) 732-7720.

## Community Calendar

### • New Beginnings hosting tamale sale

HENRYETTA — New Beginnings Baptist Church will be selling tamales in order to raise funds for upcoming church activities.

Member Joyce Thompson has also been in the process of hand-sewing quilts for cancer patients and missions.

Canned foods are also being accepted for holiday food baskets.

For more information, please contact Joyce Thompson at (918) 652-3897.

### • Youth Empowerment

OKLAHOMA CITY — The ODMHSAS systems of Care is providing "Part 2" of the Youth Empowerment and Healthy Youth Development training series.

Mr. Kevin White from VIP Community Services Inc., will be providing a youth empowerment training seminar to 25 selected SOC Youth and youth coordinators from across the state.

This event is by invitation only: The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has three slots available, two of which are for youth and one for the coordinator.

The training will take place on March 19, 2010 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Oklahoma Regional Training Institute. Registration is due for the Seminar Conference Call on Jan. 7, 2010.

For more information contact Marqus Butler at (405) 522-0994.

### • Census Employment Testing

OKMULGEE — The 2010 United States Census is in the process of finding qualified job applicants and will be holding testing sessions in Okfuskee and Okmulgee County.

The Okfuskee County training will be held at the Okemah Chamber of Commerce located at 409 W. Broadway on Tuesday, Dec. 22.

The Okmulgee County training will be held at the Okmulgee Work Force located at 1801 E. 4th St., Thursday, Dec. 17.

For more information on Census jobs, call (580) 234-5712.



Community Calendar

Concharty United Methodist Church Schedule of events

OKMULGEE — The Concharty United Methodist Church will be having a Christmas Eve Program Dec. 24, at 7 p.m.

The New Year's Eve Watch Night Service will be held Dec. 31, from 8 p.m. until 12 a.m., followed by a fellowship dinner.

Fifth Sunday Native hymn singing will be held Jan. 31, 2010 from 3-5 p.m., followed by supper.

ConchartyUnitedMethodist Church invites everyone to attend and welcomes everyone.

A Wild Onion Dinner will also be held March 27, 2010 from 11-3 p.m.

The Concharty United Methodist Church is located at 19040 Garfield Road in Okmulgee. Formoreinformation call (918) 366-8450.

AITCO’s “A Song of Winter” sings again

Hill comes home for the holidays as play celebrates fourth year

Media Release  
Mahenwahdose

OKMULGEE — The American Indian Theatre Company is announcing the fourth performance season of “A Song of Winter,” written by Will Hill, Native American playwright and Storytelling raconteur.

Like many of Hill’s performances the play is filled with humor and highlights Christmas time in Oklahoma, Indian Country. The performance will top off a year of success for Hill and AITCO, following the hysterically funny, scary comedy “The Fearless Honkah Hunters,” written by Hill and Winona Henderson, which was performed at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center in October.

The play, which takes place during the season of “Thunfoh Yuh Hay Gee Dah,” the season of the popping trees, is filled with the comedic humor and antics of Hill and his professional training, mixed beautifully with the history, language, music, folklore, and dance of his Muscogee (Creek) traditional upbringing, including an “Ode to Commodity Cheese,” highlighted in a funny, enjoyable song with the same title, written by Hill’s performance

partner, Jehnean Washington.

The acting ensemble of Mahenwahdose will once again fill the cast of this enjoyable holiday play, with Hill and the beautiful, seasoned

at the new National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian, Washington D.C., which was followed in November 2007 when they were chosen to represent Oklahoma’s

Mahenwahdose, Butch McIntosh, traditional Elder and Dancer, and newcomer Mick McEver, Cherokee, a University of Law graduate, successful Coweta attorney and Administrative Law Judge for the Cherokee Tribe, as well as undergraduate of Arts, Drama, Speech and Journalism from Northeastern State University.

The play is being funded by the American Indian Theatre Company, The Oklahoma Arts Council, National Indian Monument Institute, Tulsa Indian Art Festival, Tulsa Performing Arts Trust and Prescor, Inc. Opening night will be Friday, Dec. 18 at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center at 8 with two performances on Saturday, December 19, a 2 p.m., matinee and 8 p.m., evening performance.

Come join us as we gather around the fire and share the voices of our ancestors, our traditions, our holiday songs, and the experience of a special holiday season.

Tickets are now on sale at the PAC ticket office in the Tulsa area by calling (918) 596-7111 or at 1-800-364-7111.



Photo Courtesy of Mahenwahdose  
Pictured above are (left to right) are Jehnean Washington and Will Hill of Mahenwahdose performing the Christmas Play “A Song of Winter,” written by Will Hill.

Actress, Jehnean Washington, Hill’s stage partner for the past nine years, herself an accomplished singer and music composer. The two actors, dubbed “The Dynamic Duo” by Native American Times, brought national archival recognition to the State of Oklahoma when they were the first American Indians to perform

Centennial Celebration with 31 performances at Disney’s EPCOT in Orlando, Florida. Additional members of the ensemble include talented actor Michael Buckendorf, Jr., who is in his fourth year with Mahenwahdose, Winona Henderson, Cherokee, who has appeared in every production and is cofounder of

Birthdays, Births & Special Announcements!

**Birthdays:**

Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Theme of the party: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings: \_\_\_\_\_

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Clan: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal Town: \_\_\_\_\_



**Birth:**

Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ pounds \_\_\_\_\_ ounces \_\_\_\_\_ inches

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings: \_\_\_\_\_

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

Clan: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal Town: \_\_\_\_\_



**Announcements:**

Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings: \_\_\_\_\_

Maternal and Paternal grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

Maternal and Paternal great grandparents: \_\_\_\_\_

Clan: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach announcement



PLEASE SEND PHOTO(S) To: MCN Communications Dept. • P.O. Box 580 • Okmulgee, OK 74447



# Creek Council House Museum

*Happy Holidays*

Red  
Stick  
Gallery

Okmulgee  
Downtown Square  
Tuesday - Saturday



# SACRED JOURNEY



The medicine wheel and symbols of circles have been used throughout history to teach how all things are connected and balanced in life. When you walk in a circle there is no beginning or end and it doesn't matter where you start. In the teaching of the medicine wheel, you can learn about your physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health.

Join Wind Warrior, Lvmhe, Mvhiya, and Yaha as they take their Sacred Journey through the medicine wheel. Start at the Green dot and finish at the red dot.

